

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00554 111101Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SAM-01 PRS-01 RSC-01 DRC-01

USIA-15 H-03 /078 W

----- 121227

P 111040Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1404

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 554

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EDELSTAM'S U.S. VISIT

REF: STOCKHOLM 551

1. FEBRUARY 10 SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPER AFTONBLADET CARRIED ARTICLE ON EDELSTAM VISIT HEADED "IS NIXON AFRAID OF WHAT EDELSTAM WILL REVEAL." ARTICLE ATTEMPTS TO SHOW USG HAS PUT PRESSURE ON GOS TO PREVENT EDELSTAM VISIT, THOUGH PAPER IS CAREFUL TO NOTE THAT ITS INFO IS NOT FROM OFFICIAL GOS SOURCE.

2. AFTONBLADET ARTICLE (OMITTING NON-ESSENTIAL SENTENCES) IS AS FOLLOWS:

"QUOTE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO BRING SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO STOP AMBASSADOR EDELSTAM'S PLANNED APPEARANCE BEFORE GROUP OF SENATORS IN WASHINGTON AT END OF FEBRUARY... NIXON REGIME FEARS EDELSTAM'S REVELATIONS ABOUT COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND CHILEAN MILITARY JUNTA. THEREFORE, AMERICANS HAVE THREATENED TO DELAY NAMING NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO STOCKHOLM. FM SVEN ANDERSSON HAS IN STATEMENT TO SVENSKA DAGBLADET DENIED U.S. APPROACHED HIM IN MATTER, BUT ACCORDING TO WHAT AFTONBLADET HAS LEARNED, AMERICAN REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE LATELY AT ROUTINE CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON AND STOCKHOLM BETWEEN AMERICAN AND SWEDISH DIPLOMATS. HOWEVER, NO DIRECT AMERICAN APPROACH HAS BEEN MADE TO FM ANDERSSON. DURING NORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00554 111101Z

STOCKHOLM WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DESCRIBE EDELSTAM'S TRIP, A

MFA SPOKESMAN SAYS IN A CAREFULLY PHRASED SENTENCE. REGARDING AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD EDELSTAM'S APPEARANCE IN WASHINGTON, MFA SPOKESMAN REFERS QUESTION TO THE AMERICAN SIDE. IT HAS BEEN APPARENT LATELY THAT NORMALIZATION OF SWEDISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IS NOW IMMINENT... AMERICANS ARE WELL AWARE SWEDEN WANTS SETTLEMENT OF AMBASSADORIAL PROBLEM. THEREFORE, AMERICANS ARE USING PENDING NOMINATION TO TRY TO GET SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO STOP EDELSTAM FROM GOING TO U.S. HOWEVER, IN GOS CIRCLES THERE IS NOT TALK ABOUT GIVING IN TO PRESSURES. EDELSTAM BEING GIVEN OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO MEET AS PRIVATE PERSON DURING HIS VACATION WITH THE SENATORS IN WASHINGTON... THE STRONG OPINION ON CHILE IN SWEDEN, EVIDENCED BY, FOR INSTANCE, THE CHILE COLLECTION SPONSORED BY THE LABOR MOVEMENT, MEANS THAT ANY CONCESSION (BY THE GOS) ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE MET BY A VIOLENT REACTION. UNQUOTE.
OLSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERVENTION, AMBASSADORS, VISITS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STOCKH00554
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740240/aaaabmbv.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STOCKHOLM 551
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAR 2002 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR EDELSTAM'S U.S. VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, SW, (EDELSTAM, HARALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005